

Ex Parte)
)
Ernest Lopez)

Affidavit of DeAnn Lopez

Before me personally appeared DeAnn Lopez, who, after being by me duly sworn, stated the following under oath:

1. My name is DeAnn Lopez. My address is [REDACTED], Amarillo, Texas. I am over the age of 21, and am competent to make this affidavit. The statements contained herein are true and correct.
2. I was married to Ernest (Ernie) Lopez from 1997 to 2004. We have two children, Cody (now age 8) and Sienna (6). Both children were delivered by Dr. Veronica Vas, who was my ob/gyn.
3. From August to October 2000, I looked after Dr. Vas' children, including her daughter Isis, who was 3 to 6 months old at the time. I was supposed to watch the children one weekend a month while Veronica worked at the Dumas Emergency Room and every Monday while she worked at Planned Parenthood. However, Veronica often left the children with us for much longer periods, often three to four days at a time. Veronica would sleep at our house on the living room floor when the children were with us.
4. I looked after Isis more than the two older children since Alex and Emily spent quite a bit of time with their father, Dr. Douglas Shelton. Generally, I looked after the children in the day while Ernie worked. Ernie helped with all of the children when he was home.
5. I have previously provided grand jury testimony (2001) and an affidavit (March 20, 2002) on the months preceding Isis' death and my experience with Veronica. The information that I provided in my grand jury testimony (Ex. A), affidavit (Ex. B) and trial testimony (April 2003) is true and correct, and should be considered as part of this affidavit. However, there are a few points that I would like to summarize or supplement.

Isis' Health

6. I began looking after Isis in early August 2000. At that time, Isis was a very sweet and happy baby. When I saw her in early August, she had some projectile vomiting, which Veronica said was caused by overeating, but she generally drank formula well. She was very small, with no rolls or folds on her legs or arms, and was not very active. Apart from this, her health seemed good.

7. I did not look after or see Veronica's children for several periods in September and October when Veronica's father was in town. Veronica's father looked after the children whenever he was in town. He came to town for a week or two in late August and/or September and for about two weeks in October.
8. In September, Isis was often fussy, and it seemed as if she was not feeling well. I wondered if she had an ear infection or was teething, but Veronica said she was okay. Isis still wasn't feeling well on October 5th, when we took her to my father-in-law's birthday dinner.
9. I do not believe that we saw Isis or Veronica's other children from October 6 to October 25. Ernie and I went to Dallas for the weekend of October 6-9, so Veronica used another babysitter, Pat Turner. Ernie and I dropped Isis off at Pat Turner's work before leaving for Dallas. I have read Pat Turner's statement. I did not notice Isis not using her right arm, but Isis had been fussy and not feeling well for some time. I could usually get her to smile at me, but it took some work.
10. By October 11-12, Veronica's father was in town and was looking after her children. We did not see the children until October 25, when her father left. I saw Veronica on October 18 to cut her hair, but she did not bring Isis or the other children with her. I couldn't comb Veronica's hair, which was very messy, and Veronica pulled out a large wad of her own hair.
11. Veronica told me she was going to visit an old boyfriend, Steve, in Michigan that weekend (the weekend of the 20th), and asked if I would watch the kids the weekend after that (the weekend of the 27th) so that she could visit Steve again. I knew about Steve since Veronica had been seeing him on and off since coming to Amarillo. Veronica had already told me that Steve had broken up with his girlfriend and that she wanted to use this opportunity to reestablish her relationship with him. I agreed to watch the children on Wednesday the 25th, when Veronica had to work, and on the weekend of the 27th. I understood that her father would look after Isis on the weekend of the 20th.
12. When Veronica brought the children to me at about 4:30 on Wednesday, October 25th, Isis had ugly red marks (maybe 10-14 in all) all over her forehead and face and into her hairline. The marks on the forehead were raised, dark colored, and symmetrical, almost in a pattern. Isis gave me a sweet little smile as if she was happy to see me, but she was otherwise lethargic. Veronica said that her father said the marks were flea bites, but that the dog didn't have fleas. We talked about the possibility that they were spider bites.
13. Veronica usually sat down and visited when she brought the children over. This time, I expected her to tell me about her weekend with Steve, but she didn't stay long. At the time, I thought she had to go to work. However, when I called later to leave a message to ask if she wanted my sister and me to clean her house the

next day, she answered and said she was at home. She said she was cleaning her house but would pay Mary and me to clean the next day.

14. That evening, Ernie changed Isis' diaper and called me to come and look at it. Isis had started to have a bowel movement when he was changing her diaper, and it had started to come out green, then black, then was almost intertwined or marbled green and black. We thought this was odd. Her stool stayed dark for the rest of the week.
15. That night, at about 3 AM, Isis woke up screaming. Ernie was the first one to get her, but Veronica and I got up soon after. When we changed her diaper, there were bruises on her body. The bruises did not look new. Isis wouldn't eat, so Veronica said to give her juice with Tylenol or ibuprofen, which I did. I looked after her until she calmed down.
16. Ernie and I wondered if we should take her to the emergency room, but Veronica said, "I would take her in, but I don't want anyone to think I'm abusing her." She also said something like, "I leave my kid with somebody and I come home to this." I understood that the "somebody" she was referring to was her father.
17. Veronica said the marks on Isis' face and body were insect bites, and that she would call Isis' pediatrician. I looked up insect bites in my health book and wondered if Isis was having an allergic reaction to the bites. Veronica said no. She said she had dialed the wrong number for Isis' pediatrician but that Isis seemed to be doing okay. We were up from 3 to 6 A.M. looking after Isis and talking about her condition.
18. I have previously described in detail Isis' condition from Thursday to Saturday. I looked after Isis most of this time, though my sister Mary helped on Thursday morning and Ernie helped when he was home. In this period, Isis had dark stool, respiratory problems (almost like a rattle), fever, and redness in her eyes. She was lethargic and mostly slept. I put her in her swing to see if she would become more active, but it didn't help. She wouldn't eat formula, and she had only about 4-6 ounces of juice with Tylenol, ibuprofen and/or decongestant from Wednesday night to Saturday morning. She had quite a few bowel movements (two to four times a day). The bowel movements were dark, almost black. Whenever I changed her diaper, she cried hard (more than ordinary crying) and stiffened.
19. I told Veronica about Isis' symptoms many times. Veronica said that Isis had an ear infection or was teething. I kept asking Veronica whether she should be on antibiotics or any other treatments. In addition to over-the-counter medications, Veronica told me to give her an antibiotic (cephalexin) that had been prescribed for our daughter, Sienna, as well as breathing treatments (albuterol) that had been prescribed for our son, Cody. The cephalexin was in our refrigerator, but Veronica took it home and then returned it.

20. On Friday, both Isis and Emily were sick. Ernie was concerned about Isis, and I asked Veronica if we should take Isis to a doctor or over to Ernie's mother, Rosa. Rosa had run a home daycare and church nursery, and I thought she might have some ideas. Veronica said that wasn't necessary and that she would come by to look at the kids before leaving for Michigan to see if they were well enough for her to leave. Since we hadn't had much sleep that week, Ernie stayed home after lunch to help with the kids and to take a nap since he was participating in a church play that evening.
21. Veronica came by at about 4:30. She only stayed a few minutes and said that the kids would be okay. She said that she would be very selfish if she went to Michigan, but she decided to go anyways. Because she was my doctor, I trusted her opinion. I asked for a medical note so we could take Isis in if she got any worse, but Veronica left quickly, without leaving a note.
22. On Friday night, Isis had a large, dark colored bowel movement that went up the sides of her diaper and into her vaginal area. I cleaned her thoroughly. I believe she cried when I cleaned her since she had stiffened and cried every time her diaper was changed since coming to the house on Wednesday. I don't recall that she had any wet diapers between Wednesday and Saturday, but she had several bowel movements, all dark or black. I thought that the discoloration might be caused by the medicines.
23. I put Isis to sleep on the little couch in the living room on Friday night. Ernie came home late because he was in a church play. He helped me put the older kids to bed and went to sleep on the larger couch since he wanted to watch television after the kids were in bed. Sienna, our daughter, had fallen asleep in her car seat beside the little couch, so I left her there. In the morning, Isis was sleeping on a sleeping bag beside the couch. Ernie said she had fallen off the couch and cried in the night. He thought she had hit her head on the side of Sienna's car seat, and that she might have a little bump or bruise. I felt her head and thought there might be a little bump or bruise, but I couldn't really tell.
24. Isis seemed sleepy and went back to sleep. Ernie said that he had already given her a breathing treatment. He said he would feed her and take care of the other children while I took Nikki shopping for a dress. I left at 10:15 and reminded Ernie that Veronica had said she would call to talk to Alex around 10:30.
25. When I returned to the house, I learned that Isis was in the hospital and that Ernie had gone with her. When I got to the hospital, the police were taking Ernie's statement. I offered to provide information on her symptoms since Wednesday, but the medical staff and police officers did not want to talk with me. I was surprised since I thought they would want to know about the spider bites, weird stool, respiratory problems, fever, etc. Ernie wouldn't know as much about this since he wasn't the one who looked after her most of this time.

General

26. I gave a great deal of information about Veronica's care of her children and our relationship in my grand jury testimony. However, a few points still stand out in my mind. At the time, I overlooked much of Veronica's behavior or excused it because she was a doctor, and she had delivered my own children.
27. Although Veronica stayed at our house when I looked after her children, she did not spend time with her children. All three of her children were in diapers, but I do not recall Veronica changing a diaper, feeding the children, or putting them to bed. She also didn't provide clothes for the children or formula for Isis. I had to use our children's clothes so that her children would have something to wear, and I used my daughter's formula or borrowed formula from my sister-in-law for Isis. Veronica said she would reimburse me but never did. Veronica sometimes brought pizza or food for the adults or older children, but she rarely brought anything (formula, diapers, food, medicine or clothes) for Isis.
28. Under our agreement, I was to look after the children when Veronica worked one weekend a month and every Monday. At first, when she left the children for days at a time, I thought she had extra work. However, several times when I tried to reach her at work, she wasn't there. I also thought she was working on Wednesday evening, October 25th and Friday afternoon, October 27th, which was why I was babysitting. However, when I called to leave a message on the night of October 25th, she answered the phone. She also didn't seem to have been working on the afternoon of the October 27th but she may have gotten off work early.
29. As set forth in more detail in my grand jury testimony, Veronica's house was filthy. When I first went to Veronica's in early August, the house was dirty, with insects, spiders and old food on the counters, and the kids were playing naked in the back yard. Veronica blamed her nanny, Lorrie Word. I offered to clean the house that weekend, and spent almost an entire day cleaning. When my sister and I cleaned the house on Thursday, October 26, it was in even worse shape. There were spiders and insects, molded bread and rat droppings on the kitchen counter, poop in the children's potty seat, cat litter on the floor, and medical samples scattered around the house.
30. Veronica also had other unsanitary habits. For example, when Veronica and I took the children to visit a farm, some of the children's cookies fell on the ground in an area with farm animals. I picked them up and started to throw them away, but Veronica took them and said that she could still grind them up and put them on ice cream for the children. When I looked startled, she said something like, "you're not one of those germ freaks are you?"
31. Veronica did not supervise the children when she was at my house. I don't think she supervised the children at her own house, either. For example, when I went to her house at about 1 p.m. one day, I found Alex running around the house

squirting ketchup, unsupervised. Veronica was sleeping in her bedroom. She said she was glad I had woken her up because she had to go to work.

32. Veronica was obsessed with sex and with various men. She described sex acts with Dr. Bobby Miller, Isis' father, in considerable details. She said that she had had sex for money or some type of payment, and suggested that she wanted to borrow Ernie. I ignored this.
33. Veronica started talking about seeing Steve again sometime in September or October. I think that the October visits were possibly her third and fourth visits to Michigan. When she began to see Steve again, she started saying things like "what man would want me with all this baggage," referring to the children. It seemed like Alex and Emily could go to Dr. Shelton's, but there was nowhere for Isis to go. Veronica said that Steve said that no wife of his was going to live in Texas when he was living in Michigan.
34. Veronica told me that she didn't really want to have Isis and that she had tried to abort her by taking birth control pills. She said you can get a late term abortion by taking extra doses of birth control pills, but it didn't work for her.
35. Ernie felt sorry for Isis because her father wasn't involved and her mother didn't have any time for her. He comes from a close family and is very good with children, so he found it hard to believe that no one seemed to want Isis, who was a very sweet baby. When he was home, Ernie treated Isis like one of his own kids. Veronica said several times that she didn't like Ernie because he reminded her of Dr. Shelton, always helping with the house and the kids.
36. Nothing that the children did (crying, tearing up the house) seemed to bother Veronica. One time, I left Sienna and Isis with Veronica while I went to Ernie's mother's house across the street to get a chair she had given us. When his mother and I brought the chair back, both of the babies were in the swings, screaming and slumped to the side, while Veronica chatted on the phone. Veronica said something like, "I hope you take better care of my children than I take of yours."
37. I asked Veronica once why the crying didn't bother her. She said it was because she was on Paxil and she suggested that I take some, too. She offered me some of hers, but I refused.
38. Veronica was moving to San Antonio to fulfill her Navy commitment and said several times that she wanted us to move with her. We didn't have any interest in going with her, so we didn't say anything. After she started seeing Steve again, she told me that she was going to try again to get out of her Navy commitment.

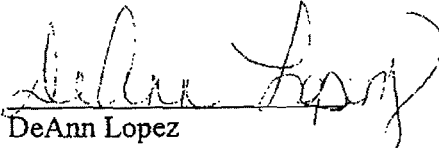
Investigation

39. When I went to the hospital on October 28, 2000, it seemed clear that Isis was not going to survive. CPS told me that Isis had been sexually assaulted and that she had a broken hymen.
40. No one at the hospital wanted to talk to me about Isis' health or symptoms in the days before she died. They only wanted information from Ernie. I could not understand why no one wanted to talk to me since Isis was with me for two and a half days before she went to the hospital. Ernie saw Isis during that time, but he was working in the day, spent Thursday evening with his parents and older daughter, Nikki, and was in a church play on Friday evening. He was only alone with Isis for about forty minutes on Saturday morning. Since Isis was sick for at least three days and possibly much longer, I thought the doctors and nurse would want to know about her condition.
41. Finally, a police officer took me to our house. At the house, I tried to tell him about Isis' bruises, stool and other symptoms, but he didn't want to hear about it. He just wanted to collect diapers and other material from the house, and take photographs. When CPS came to the house that afternoon, I tried to talk to them about Isis' illness, but they weren't interested, either.
42. Sometime before the trial, the District Attorney told me that they were going to call me as a witness. They told me to give very short answers, to only answer what they asked, and not to elaborate. I tried to tell them about Isis being sick before Ernie looked after her, but they were not interested. The District Attorney told me that they had a whole box of materials in their office that proved that Ernie was absolutely guilty, but that they weren't even going to have to use them at trial. I was very intimidated when I was questioned at trial.
43. I told David Isern, Ernie's first attorney, about Isis' illness in detail when Ernie was first arrested. I also told him about Veronica's parenting and the condition of her home. When Mr. Isern questioned me at trial, I thought he was going to ask about many of these things, but he didn't ask many questions. After my testimony, Mr. Isern told me he was really sorry he hadn't asked more questions.
44. I don't recall talking to Joe Marr Wilson before the trial. If I did, it was in a group and it was very brief. I did not talk to Mr. Wilson separately.
45. At the trial, I kept wondering when Ernie's expert witnesses were going to testify. I knew that Ernie's parents had paid a great deal of money for experts to review the records. I understood that these experts, including Dr. White, were going to testify. I also understood that Ernie's attorneys had hired other experts from Dallas and California. When I asked when the experts were going to testify, Mr. Wilson told me that all of Ernie's experts had "bailed" because after reviewing the materials they believed he was guilty and that the time frame showed he did it.

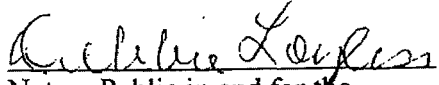
I did not hear about this until the trial was almost over. I am certain that Ernie did not know that the experts would not be testifying. We all went into trial expecting them to testify.

46. I still don't know what caused the bruises and other marks on Isis' face and body that were present when she came to our house. To me, it seemed likely that whatever happened to Isis before she came to our house was related to her death, and I do not understand why no one wanted to figure out what caused Isis' bruises and the marks on her face.

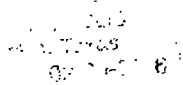
I swear under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Texas that the foregoing is true and correct. This concludes my affidavit.


DeAnn Lopez

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 12 day of July, 2006.


Notary Public in and for the
State of Texas

My commission expires: 9/30/06



Attachment A – March 20, 2002 Affidavit

AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF

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BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, personally appeared DEANN MARIE LOPEZ and after being duly sworn on his/her oath stated as follows:

"My full name is DEANN MARIE LOPEZ. I am a white female. My birth date is [REDACTED]. I reside at [REDACTED], Amarillo, Texas 79110. Home phone number [REDACTED]. I am a housewife. I hold Texas DL # [REDACTED] and Social Security number is [REDACTED].


"I wish to say that I first met Dr. Veronica Vas when I was pregnant with Cody, my first child. At the time Ernie was working at Peek Industrial and we had First Care Insurance and Medicaid. I was seeing Dr. Shelton. Peek Industrial closed and I asked Dr. Shelton if he would take Medicaid. Dr. Shelton said that he was not taking Medicaid and referred me to Dr. Veronica Vas who was at Texas Tech. I started seeing Dr. Veronica Vas and she delivered Cody. I later became pregnant with Sienna and called Veronica Vas and began seeing her again through Texas Tech. At the time Veronica was pregnant with Isis. Isis was born April 26, 2000 and I delivered Sienna May 14, 2000. Veronica was actually due two ^{weeks} ~~months~~ after me and went into labor early. At the time that Veronica went into labor I had an appointment to see her and when I did Veronica was crying. She said she was scared. Veronica told me that she didn't want to take time off work and her director wanted her to take time off. Veronica also mentioned that she didn't want to deliver the baby at Northwest Texas Hospital because a lot of people knew her and she didn't want to deliver the baby at Baptist St. Anthony's Hospital because Dr. Shelton delivered babies there. Veronica said that she was going to deliver at home and just cut the cord off. She was going to


have Mary Ann Franklin help her deliver at home. A few days after she delivered Isis I had an appointment to see Veronica, she was at Texas Tech and able to see me. Veronica gave me her home phone and her pager and said that if I went into labor to call her. When I went into labor I called her and she delivered Sienna. After Sienna was born Veronica told me to call her so that we could take the kids swimming. Veronica graduated from Tech in July of 2000 and she called me in August and asked me if I wanted to take the kids to the Water Park. I told her that I didn't want to take Sienna to the Water Park and agreed to take the kids to her house to swim in the plastic pool in the backyard. When I got to Veronica's, Alex and Emily were naked playing in the pool. I noticed that Veronica's house was a total mess. It was really filthy. We set in the backyard watching the kids play and Veronica said that she paid Lorrie Word \$300.00 a week and Lorrie did not keep the house clean and she was not sure that she took good care of the kids. I visited Veronica a couple more time. During those time Veronica said that she was mad at Lorrie and was going to fire her and that she needed a babysitter and asked if I would mind watching the kids every Monday and one week-end a month. The very same day I took care of Isis and Isis spent the night with us. After that I had Emily, Alex and Isis just about every day. Alex and Emily were very undisciplined and did not mind. If I told them not to do something they just looked at me. Veronica said that Dr. Shelton disciplined the kids and she was not going to. Veronica would let the kids do flips over the coffee table and jump on the couch. A lot of the times when Veronica got off work she would come to our house even if Dr. Shelton had Alex and Emily. Veronica would come over to our house and make herself at home. If Veronica was at work or seeing Dr. Miller I had the kids, or Dr. Shelton had Alex and Emily and I had Isis. When Veronica dropped off the kids and went off to work she did not call to check on the kids while she was at work. She didn't bring the kids any clothes or formulas or diapers. When I first started babysitting for Veronica we were going to discussed pay at Veronica's house. Veronica had called and I went over. When I got to Veronica's house no one answered the door and I could hear someone inside the house. I went around to the

back door and went into the house and Alex was running around with a ketchup bottle squirting the ketchup all over the house. Isis was slouched on the armrest of the couch and crying her head off and Veronica and Emily were asleep in Emily's room. I woke Veronica up and she said, "I am glad that you woke me up. I've got to go to work." During this time Veronica was seeing Bobby Miller and she was also seeing Steve. Also during this time Veronica's dad would come to see Veronica and the kids. I didn't see Veronica or the kids when her dad was in town. In October of 2000 Veronica said that Steve had broken up with his girlfriend. Veronica said that she was going to go see Steve. I knew Alex and Emily were with Dr. Shelton. Veronica said that her dad was in town and he was going to keep Isis. I believe Veronica left on Friday and that her dad took care of Isis while Veronica was gone. I did not hear from Veronica again until Wednesday, October 25, 2000. Veronica, Alex, Emily and Isis drove up. Veronica knocked on my front door and said that she had just dropped off her dad at the Airport and wanted to know if I remembered about today. I said yes. We went to the van to get the kids and brought the kids into the house. That's when I asked her, "How did it go?" Veronica said that she did not go. I said, "What?" and Veronica responded by saying "I thought you meant San Antonio." Veronica then said, "Oh, he loves me, I'll tell you about it." We went into the house and sat on the couch, Alex and Cody started fighting behind the couch and Isis was crying. I told Alex and Cody to stop fighting and I got up to pick up Isis. Before I ever picked up Isis, Veronica said, "She got bit." I then noticed Isis' forehead. Isis had red dots with pink around the dots on the left side of her forehead and back into her hairline. I said, "What bit her?" and Veronica said her dad thought it was flea bites. I picked Isis up and held her and Veronica stood up and left. I thought Veronica had gone to work. At about 7:30 I called her on her cell phone to see if she needed her house cleaned so that I could earn extra money. It surprised me that Veronica was at home. I asked her if I could clean her house and Veronica said, "Yea, come on over." I told her that I would do it the next day. Veronica came to our home around 10:00 p.m. We then went to bed. Veronica slept on the living room floor with Alex and Emily. Isis slept in

Nicki's bed and Ernie, Sienna, Cody and I slept in our bed. About 3:00 a.m. Isis woke up crying and cried for a few minutes. Veronica didn't get up to check on Isis, so Ernie went to check on Isis. Ernie was walking out of Nicki's room with Isis in his arms. Veronica was walking down the hall and I was approaching Nicki's room and we all three met in the hallway at Nicki's door. Ernie said, "She won't take this bottle." Veronica took Isis from Ernie and said, "This is not a hungry cry." We all continued walking down the hallway to the front room. Isis seemed warm and Veronica took Isis clothes off. I then saw the bruises on Isis. Veronica said, "I'm going to take her in" (meaning to the doctor) and then said that she didn't want to take her in because of this. As Veronica made this statement she took her hand and made a movement motioning to the bruises on Isis chest and the marks on her forehead. Almost in the same sentence, Veronica got her cell phone and said, "I'm going to call the babies doctor" as she handed me Isis. Veronica dialed and then said that she got the wrong number. Veronica asked for a phonebook and I told her the phonebook was on the entertainment center. Veronica got the phonebook and never looked up the number. I looked at the ^{medical D.L.} ~~insect~~ book to see what kind of reaction flea bites would have on a human and Veronica said that what I had read in the book was not what it meant. Veronica examined Isis and said I am concerned about the petechiae and pointed to Isis head and said, "I don't know about the bruises and I don't think anyone has hurt her." I had no idea what Veronica was talking about. By this time I had rocked Isis and calmed her down. It was around 6:00 a.m. Thursday morning. Ernie went to bed and Veronica laid down on the couch. Veronica left for work at about 7:00 a.m. and Ernie left at about 7:50 a.m. At around 8:30 a.m. I went and picked up my sister, Mary Guerrero. We stopped at moms and then went on to Veronica's to clean up her house. We were at Veronica's until almost 1:00 p.m. During this time Veronica called twice. Once because she had lost her flight number and again to see if I had found it. After cleaning Veronica's house we went home. Veronica arrived home from work, we ordered pizza, ate, and played on the Internet. Ernie was at his mom's across the street and got home around 10:00 p.m. We had already gone to bed. Isis was

on the couch. Veronica, Alex and Emily were in the livingroom floor. Ernie and I slept with our kids in our bed. I had noticed that Isis was not herself. She slept most of the time. Veronica told me that Isis had an ear infection and to give her antibiotics. I assumed this was why Isis had slept so much. Isis used to be happy and playful like most babies, but when Veronica returned Isis on Wednesday, I noticed that when I tried to feed Isis she wouldn't eat and when she did the bathroom the poop looked real loose and dark. Isis was crying alot. She went from sleeping to crying when her diaper was changed to sleeping again. Sometime during the night on Thursday night Veronica left and went to the grocery store. I know this because when I got up on Friday morning there was bags of groceries on the table. Veronica left for work Friday morning. When Ernie got up, he went to the livingroom and noticed Isis was only wearing a diaper and that she was uncovered. Ernie covered her up. She awoke and began crying. Ernie fixed me a bottle for Isis and I was rocking Isis when Ernie left for work. Later that morning I was on the phone with my sister and Veronica called saying she was looking for her driver's license. Ernie came home at lunch and took the rest of the day off. Around 4:00 p.m. Veronica called again and Ernie answered the phone and handed it to me. Veronica asked if I thought she should go to Michigan. I told her that Emily had a fever and that Isis was still sick. I told her why don't you come by and judge for yourself. Veronica had been acting weird and was real short. Veronica did not care for Ernie. She had mentioned before that Ernie reminded her of Doug Shelton, always tending to the kids. Veronica came home and I was holding Isis in my arms and I handed her Isis. Veronica placed Isis on her shoulder and sat on the ~~couch~~ ^{Rocking Chair P.C.} and Emily laid in Veronica's lap. Veronica said why don't you go to my car and get the camera and take a picture of us. I went to the car and got the camera and took a picture of them. Veronica was not herself. She was very quiet and not saying anything at all. I broke the silence and said, "What do you think?" Veronica said, "I think I would be a real selfish person if I went." I was thinking to myself, how can you think of going, but giving her an out, I said, "This is not the first time your kids have been sick, and it will not be the last time. If you want to go, I will watch


DEANN MARIE LOPEZ, Affiant


Notary Public, State of Texas

